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Public Affairs Office**

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## **New post office dedicated to fallen postal Soldiers**

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JOINT BASE BALAD, Iraq — Postal Soldiers here dedicated a new Army Post Office at East Balad to postal operations Soldiers who have fallen in the service of their nation.

Two years ago there was a bronze plaque hanging on the wall in the post office located in Baghdad, Iraq (Camp Liberty), dedicated to postal soldiers and civilians who had died in the line of duty. That post office, where the original plaque hung, was damaged beyond repair, but the original plaque was salvaged from the damaged building.

Through the efforts of Capt. Matthew Fecteau of the 4/18<sup>th</sup> Postal Platoon, 847<sup>th</sup> Human Resources Co., 16<sup>th</sup> Special Troops Battalion, 16<sup>th</sup> Sustainment Brigade, personnel at JBB dedicated this newly-built post office on East Balad to the fallen Soldiers and civilian contractors that gave their lives for a greater purpose.

Fecteau said that this would be a great way to honor fallen comrades and to show appreciation for their sacrifice. On the plaque are the names of postal heroes:

**Spc. Darryl Dent**, 21, 547<sup>th</sup> Transportation Co., D.C. Army National Guard, Washington, D.C., Aug. 26, 2003; **Vernon Gaston**, 45, KBR, Inc., contractor, Lampasas, Texas, Sep. 3, 2003; **Spc. Jeremy Ridlen**, 23, 1544<sup>th</sup> Transportation Co., Illinois Army

National Guard, Moroa, Ill., Mar. 23, 2004; **Spc. Charles Lamp**, 23, 1544<sup>th</sup> Transportation Co., Illinois Army National Guard, Martinsville, Ill., Sep. 09, 2004; **Sgt. Shawna Morrison**, 26, 1544<sup>th</sup> Transportation Co., Illinois Army National Guard, Paris, Ill., Oct. 5, 2004; **Sgt. Jessica Cawvey**, 21, 1544<sup>th</sup> Transportation Co., Illinois Army National Guard, Normal, Ill., Oct. 06, 2004; **Pfc. Isaiah Hunt**, 20, 497<sup>th</sup> Transportation Co., 1<sup>st</sup> Corps, Ft. Lewis, Wash., Green Bay, Wis., Nov. 15, 2004; **Sgt. Rocky Payne**, 26, 497<sup>th</sup> Transportation Co., 1<sup>st</sup> Corps, Ft. Lewis, Wash., Howell, Utah, March 16, 2005; **Fred Bryant**, 39, KBR, Inc., contractor, Jacksonville, Fla., Aug. 5, 2006.

These nine brave souls were sent out on numerous missions to support Soldiers throughout the Iraqi Theater of operations and made the ultimate sacrifice. Whatever the price, postal operations are vital to completing missions successfully, and Soldiers depend on the mail for contact with their loved ones and for taking care of important business back home.

The new post office, located off of Pennsylvania Ave. on East Balad, will stand as a reminder of the accomplishments of not just these nine brave men and women but also the commitment of those who continue to make sure that all postal missions are successfully completed.



The new Army Post Office at Joint Base Balad was dedicated to postal operations Soldiers and civilians that have fallen in the line of duty. On the wall there is a plaque with the names of nine fallen comrades. (Courtesy photo)